

Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative – Webinar 3: Questions and Answers

Q1: Is the cost of photovoltaic panels an eligible expense under this initiative?

(I believe you stated funding for PV panels would have to be applied for from another DOER initiative.)

A1: The Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative will not fund project costs that are otherwise incentivized by state or other entities. In the case of solar photovoltaic panels, there are federal tax credits, state tax credits, a state rebate, and performance incentives through the SREC II program available. The Initiative, therefore, would not contribute to the conventional costs of solar photovoltaic systems. Solar systems serving municipal facilities can typically be owned and financed by third-parties, and community shared solar ownership structures may be feasible. In the case of solar photovoltaic panels, the Initiative would be providing funding for the resiliency equipment included in the PV system (like battery storage, critical load panels, an inverter for islanding and necessary interconnection upgrades), not the generation equipment.

Q3: Is there a requirement that funded clean energy generation run a minimum number of hours per year? Can the generation be installed solely for standby power?

A3: There is no minimum run time requirement for clean energy generation equipment under the Initiative. However, DOER strongly encourages all projects be designed to provide applicants with clean energy during “blue sky” days as well as emergency events.

Q4: What is the maximum amount of funding that DOER will commit (as % of project cost)

A4: Technical Assistance will be provided at no cost to the awarded applicant. As stated in the “Funding Guidelines” section of the Project Implementation Application Information form:

“The applicant submitting a PI Application must provide a minimum of 10% match of funding for the project, with no more than half of the match allowed as in-kind.”

As such, 90% of the eligible project costs can be covered by the Initiative. As stated in the “Evaluation Criteria” section, “meeting or exceeding [the] cost share requirement” will be considered in our scoring of applications.

Q5: Have the power utilities shown interest on this initiative?

A5: DOER has worked closely with the electric utilities in MA throughout the development of the Initiative. They are aware of the goals and objectives of the program.

Q6: If a municipality and a hospital partner on a project, can either party pay the 10%?

A6: If a municipality partners with a private entity, like a hospital, to submit an application, that entity could provide the minimum 10% cost share.

Q7: Does clean energy generation include PV solar. Does the grant cover PV systems?

A7: The Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative will not fund project costs that are otherwise incentivized by state or other entities. In the case of solar photovoltaic panels, there are federal tax credits, state tax credits, a state rebate, and performance incentives through the SREC II program available. The Initiative, therefore, would not contribute to the conventional costs of solar photovoltaic systems. Solar systems serving municipal facilities can typically be owned and financed by third-parties, and community shared solar ownership structures may be feasible. In the case of a solar photovoltaic system, the Initiative would be providing funding for the resiliency equipment (like battery storage, critical load panels, an inverter for islanding and necessary interconnection upgrades), not the generation equipment.

Q8: Why are the time lines so short? With utility interconnection and municipal bidding requirements there is not enough time.

A8: Climate change is a reality and the impact of climate change in Massachusetts are also a reality. The Patrick Administration has directed DOER to move forward as quickly as possible on our portion of the Climate Preparedness Initiatives.

Q9: Would you mind specifying the life safety resources and lifeline critical facilities once more?

A9: As stated in the “Eligible Critical Facilities” sections of the solicitation documents:

“For this grant, DOER defines critical facilities as: *buildings or structures where loss of electrical service would result in disruption of a critical public safety life sustaining function.* DOER has prioritized these critical facilities and provided examples of critical facilities in the list below, but DOER does not limit the critical facilities to only these examples.

1. *Life safety resources* – e.g., police, fire, hospitals, wastewater treatment plants, emergency communication resources and shelters;
2. *Lifeline resources* – e.g., food and fuel supply, and transportation facilities and resources; and
3. *Community resources* – e.g., city/town halls, senior centers, schools and/or multi-family housing developments capable of acting as alternative shelters.

Critical facilities may be publicly or privately owned and operated. The lead eligible applicant, however, must demonstrate to DOER that any private facilities (e.g. hospitals, fueling stations, grocery stores, or housing) have entered into or are pursuing entry into a Memorandum of Understanding to provide the applicant critical functions for public benefit in the case of an

emergency event. Such a Memorandum of Understanding must be completed prior to any award being made by DOER.”

Q10: Will the slides from today and yesterday go up on your web site and if so by when?

A10: The webinar recordings and slides are archived on the website [here](#).

Q11: Can you set up a place on the web for informational purposes so that people can find out about suppliers and what they do?

A11: DOER is not able to collect and/or disseminate vendor information on its website.

Q12: Is the town required to go through Chapter 30B procurement to select a consultant to assist on our PI application, or can we work directly with a firm that has resiliency experience?

A12: Municipalities operate under their own procurement regulations and MA DOER has no involvement with that process.

Q13: The prime candidate for this project in our town is our high school which is undergoing a major renovation and won't be complete until fall 2015 - can this be eligible for PI and/or TA?

A13: As stated in the “Evaluation Criteria” section of the Project Implementation Application Information document: “All projects should demonstrate a strong plan for completion by the end of calendar year 2015 at the latest.” By this standard, the high school in question should meet the timeline laid out. This project would be eligible for either Project Implementation or Technical Assistance.

Q14: Do you have a link for: Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER)?

A14: The main DOER website is: www.mass.gov/doer. The Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative is: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/renewable-energy/resiliency-initiative.html>.

Q15: Will 100% of the technical assistance initiatives executed through this initiative be executed by the energy consultant team procured by the DOER?

A15: The technical assistance will be executed by the consulting team procured by DOER. The team is lead by The Cadmus Group in partnership with MCFA and HOMER Energy.

Q16: If I read this answer correctly, Cadmus will lead the project, but may subcontract in to additional consultants with expertise in different areas?

A16: The entire technical assistance consulting team is contracted by DOER. This team is lead by the Cadmus Group in partnership with MCFA and HOMER Energy.

Q17: Question with regard to the total program funding. When reviewing the documentation it appeared as if there was \$40 Million for the Project Implementation. However every other description describes the program as \$40 Million total. Can you clarify the funding resources for project implementation and technical assistance? Do they both fall under the \$40 Million funding?

A17: DOER has currently allocated \$200,000 of the \$40 million for the consulting contract for technical assistance so that such assistance can be provided at no cost to awarded applicants. DOER has the discretion to increase this amount if deemed necessary through higher than anticipated demand for services. The remainder of the \$40 million is allocated for project implementation.

Q18: Would the DOER consider a development that has not yet broke ground? Eg. a sports complex that partnered with the community to provide emergency shelter.

A18: A development that has not yet broken ground would be considered under the Initiative as long as all the eligibility criteria were met. Note, however, that as stated in the "Evaluation Criteria" section of the Project Implementation Application Information document: "All projects should demonstrate a strong plan for completion by the end of calendar year 2015 at the latest."

Q19: Is the DOR Income per Capita where the "state median per capita income" always the \$29,927 stated in the application documents? Also is the "municipality per capita income" pulled from the DOR income per Capita?

A19: The state median per capita income used for the maximum grant funding calculation is a constant of \$29,927, based on the most recent MA DOR data. The municipality per capita income is then pulled from that MA DOR data and can be found [here](#).

Q20: Question with regard to the total program funding. When reviewing the documentation it appeared as if there was \$40 Million for the Project Implementation and \$40 Million for the Technical Assistance portion of the program. However every other description describes the program as \$40 Million total. Can you clarify the funding resources for project implementation and technical assistance?

A20: See Question 17.

Q21: What suggestions do you have for service provider groups that can provide installation services for projects?

A21: DOER encourages service providers to work with eligible applicants on projects for the Initiative.

Q22: Can we use costs of PV panels as part of our share?

A22: An applicant must provide a minimum of 10% match of funding for the project, with no more than half of the match allowed as in-kind. This match of funding can go towards any part of the project cost.

Q23: Can we find out how much we are eligible for before applying?

A23: An applicant should use the maximum grant award calculation to determine the amount it is eligible for. This can be found in the "Funding Guidelines" section of the Project Implementation Application Information document.

Q24: How do we respond to the requested "letter from the relevant utility stating that the application for generation interconnection was received reviewed and deemed complete" when the PV system will be installed by a third party via a PPA?

A24: If an applicant is working with a third party to install a PV system via a PPA, that third party should provide the applicant with the utility letter regarding interconnection. This would, in turn, be submitted with the application for funding through the Initiative.

Q25: Will all webinar questions and answers be posted on the DOER website?

A25: All webinar recordings, presentation slides and questions and answers are archived [here](#).

Q26: I assume that the requested "Description of use during an emergency" under section 5. Design Study and Financial Analysis, is for the islandable system itself and not the entire facility. Please confirm.

A26: Correct, the requested "description of use during an emergency" under Section 5 Design Study and Financial Analysis refers to the islandable system itself and not the entire facility.

Q27: How long are we given to implement/finish projects once awarded?

A27: As stated in the "Evaluation Criteria" section of the Project Implementation Application Information document, the Initiative calls for:

"Clear plan to expeditiously execute the proposed project.

- For Single building projects, proposals with a plan to complete projects before the end of calendar year 2014 will be given priority.

- More complex projects will be evaluated more strongly the sooner they can be completed.
- All projects should demonstrate a strong plan for completion by the end of calendar year 2015 at the latest.”

Q28: When would project funding be available and what is the timeframe for implementation/end date?

A28: The Round 1 Project Implementation awards will be made on August 15, 2014 (subject to change). The Round 2 Project Implementation awards will be made on November 15, 2014 (subject to change). Following these awards, DOER will seek to contract and disseminate the funds as quickly as possible.

Q29: On your funding calculation, where is \$ 10 coming from?

A29: The \$10 in the calculation is a per capita multiplier serving as a foundation for the specific adder based on population and relative per capita income.

Q30: Will yesterdays and today's presentations and slides be posted online somewhere?

A30: See Question 10.